

YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 11, 2016

PRESENT: Mike Boyett, Ted Lechner, Johnnie McClusky, Tiffani Sherman, Joe Rich, Bernadette Blaylock, Kevin Evans, Julie Hecker

EX-OFFICIO PRESENT: Val Weber, Jim Reno, Robyn Driscoll,

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dave Krueger, Jeremy House

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chair, Mike Boyett
The August minutes were approved as written

Jim Reno introduced the new county commissioner, Robyn Driscoll. She will be serving the rest of Bill Kennedy's term. Robyn previously worked with Jim Reno for about 8 months in adult education before he left to work with the County Commission. She ran for the state legislature, served in the House for 8 years (4 terms), and went on to serve one term in the Senate. She was running again when the opportunity arose to work as a County Commissioner. Her choice ultimately came down to the opportunity to do public service full time, rather than every other year or on a part-time basis during the interim. She looks forward to working with Jim and John and looks forward to serving on our board.

Val had board members introduce themselves.

OLD BUSINESS:

Census Report:

The census has increased again, causing us to have to add more staff. We need to increase staff when the census hits 18, or at 17 if we have youth on suicide precautions. We are actively recruiting fill-ins. We posted a full-time position and received only 3 applications; all were vastly inexperienced. We ended up re-opening the position. In the meantime, we hired one of them to work as a fill-in and he may be hired full-time at a later date. Unemployment is low in Billings, making recruitment difficult. We require a clean driving record and background checks. Val is looking at paid internships through college. She has not typically been in favor of paid internships, but she may be able to structure this as a recruitment tool. Out of our 37 employees, 7 started out as interns. MSUB used to heavily emphasize internships in their human resources program, but not so much anymore. She is also working on recruiting out of Rocky's psychology department. We have trouble moving our temp, part-time people into full-time positions. Most of our current fill-ins are happy working part-time. Julie suggested posting in Missoula and Bozeman. Val thought this may be a good idea, since kids come home over their breaks. The application process is fairly cumbersome. By the time someone gets through the process, the applicant has already found other employment.

We have one long term youth who is waiting to age out or go to trial. The vast majority of Yellowstone County youth are in/out within a day or two. Jim asked about DOC putting adults with minors. When Yellowstone County built their jail, they were originally looking at putting adults and youth together. Val said you can co-locate a facility with youth/adult, but everything must be kept separate. Riverside has shut down their youth facility. There is no longer a facility for girls in Montana. Girls now are shipped out of state. Riverside was thinking of doing a youthful offender program, however, their whole structure has changed. They now have some female inmates in their 60's. They are calling it a Trauma Informed Care Unit, but it is not for youthful offenders.

Delay Garden Security:

Val has postponed the security until winter to accommodate Kenco's schedule. She is working on getting WI-FI set up in the conference room.

NEW BUSINESS:

Holiday Season Plans:

Moss mansion's theme this year is hand-made toys. Staff and youth are making wood toys and painting them. Val reminded members that the second Tuesday in December is the annual board meeting with the kids. They will again be making lunch for the board members. Last year, we made blankets for a military unit overseas. This year, Val got a request from Road Dog Harley asking if we could find Harley fleece and put together a basket of tie-dyed blankets made by the kids to go into their silent auction for the sleigh ride.

MBI Presentation:

Val introduced Hank and Betty, our educational team at YSC. YSC is basically the secure facility in the State for piloting MBI in the schools. MBI is a program that is enacted in the classroom and then spreads throughout the facility. Hank shared some handouts explaining what MBI is, as well as the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). Most kids in the regular school setting are Tier I kids. We work with all multi-tiered kids, but mostly Tier 2 and occasionally Tier 3. That requires the educational team be able to provide individualized programs to accommodate each youth's educational level. Hank and Betty have chosen the theme "AIM", taken from the archery program. AIM stands for 1) Achieve goals, 2) be Independent, and 3) Make good choices. The philosophy is "on target for life". Each category has special goals. They are still working on the detention program to implement school policy, but have the outline for ACC completed. The SD matrix will be different from ACC due to the secure setting and movement restrictions. Board members asked about any successes they have experienced. They shared the experience of one youth who had not been in school since 2nd grade. At 17 years old, they were able to get him somewhat invested in school and helped him to achieve some reading ability and life skills. They are working on a data tracking program to track successes. They have some input from a consultant at OPI, helping them figure out how to track and what would be the most useful information to have.

Val asked them to explain how their training has helped them change their approach with kids. They explained how they were rephrasing communication by removing negative interactions and replacing them with positive direction. Part of the program is for them to track

themselves, rephrasing instruction to include four positive ones to each negative. Hank said it has been challenging to change the way they are speaking to youth. Betty added that because Val already encourages staff to be respectful of the youth, they have already been trained to approach kids respectfully. They are rewriting their rules to reinforce the positive, for example, “don’t lean back in your chair” becomes “sit appropriately”, and “don’t talk between tables” translates to “talk at your own table only”. Susan Bailey Anderson started MBI 20 years ago and has been supportive of our involvement. Val has spent some of her budget on travel to allow Hank and Betty to attend Community of Practice training, and it has really helped them connect with OPI and other facilities. They will be making posters to hang in various parts of the facility to remind kids to AIM high and use the skills. The educational reimbursement we receive does not take effect until the 10th day a youth is in detention, even though we provide education upon intake. We are hoping that we will see a change so we can have reimbursement upon intake. We can end up providing multiple days of education without reimbursement when a youth is detained under 10 days or has multiple stays, all under the time period. Denise Juneau has been helpful in recognizing that youth are being educated in facilities other than public schools.

Hank gave an update on the Archery program and how it provides confidence, achievement, participation, teamwork, and self-esteem. It is also integrated with the therapy program, providing building blocks to other learning. We have the youth such a short time, and they have usually encountered so much failure, that one of Val’s goals is to help kids see that they can experience success in school, to give them a bit of hope, or a path to success.

Hank expressed interest in becoming part of the HISET program. All materials must be purchased however, and it would most likely only be effective with long-term kids. Julie mentioned it was good to see something taking place academically. One goal is to come up with one uniform flow chart so information can be passed from facility to facility easily. This is currently being reviewed in the legal department at OPI. It would be nice to be able to have the youths work and credits follow them, with an easy flow of school charts and tracking of progress.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm

NEXT MEETING: The meeting will be changed from November 8th to November 9th at noon to account for Election Day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue O’Connor, Administrative Coordinator